

TOWN COUNCIL OF LEO-CEDARVILLE
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 8, 2008

ATTENDANCE:

John Clendenen – Vice President
John Eastes
Gordon Liechty, Jr.
Michael Young

Pamela Spannuth – Clerk-Treasurer, Peggy Garton – Town Administrator

7:00 – Meeting called to order.

AGENDA – The agenda was accepted as written.

MINUTES – The March 18, 2008 meeting minutes were approved as written.

EAST ALLEN COMMUNITIES – Mr. Clendenen requested input from those present regarding the proposed East Allen Communities resolution for reorganization. Concerns were expressed relating to the lack of financial data showing the impact an East Allen County government consolidation would have on the residents of Leo-Cedarville. Mr. Tim Richards, stormwater utility board member, referenced the town attorney's caution that the adoption of this proposed resolution is not in the best interest of the town. Mr. Clendenen also expressed concern that the lack of financial data to back up reorganization at this point would make a decision difficult, if not irresponsible, at this time. Mr. Jack Bridges spoke in support of the reorganization of East Allen Communities and feels that the additional layer of government wouldn't necessarily mean a duplication of taxes. He cautioned the council that if the opportunity to adopt this resolution were to be passed up, the town would be eventually confined to its existing boundaries. He feels there will not be enough time to revisit an East Allen Communities Reorganization before Fort Wayne would pursue a merger involving Allen County. Mr. Lynn Witt, Grabill town councilman, presented a brief background of the origin of the reorganization efforts. East Allen Communities, EAC, was created under HB1362. EAC was formed as a reaction to the threat posed by the passage of HB225. He presented a series of financial spreadsheets itemizing the potential revenue sources of East Allen Communities. He stressed the importance of the town acting quickly if the town wishes to participate in the EAC reorganization. If the town does not pass the proposed resolution for reorganization, the process would have to be started over. Discussion ensued relating to the unknowns such as the care of bridges, roads, and other infrastructure needs. Mr. Witt encouraged the town council to adopt the resolution to proceed with the reorganization process with the understanding that the adoption could be rescinded within thirty days of passage. He further stated that EAC would be able to provide a proposed budget within 30 days of the town's passage of the resolution.

Mr. Eastes expressed that the individual communities involved all need to do what they feel is right for their own community without feeling pressure from

a larger group. He stressed that it is only wise to have proper financial data including a budget to examine to make a decision. He doesn't feel that a town has to expand its borders to "grow" and acknowledged that the town would give up certain things to become part of a larger entity. He stated that this might be a wise decision for certain entities but not for all.

Mr. Liechty expressed concern regarding the timeline in which the town has to formally respond by resolution. He cited the town attorney's caution but feels that residents of Leo-Cedarville should have the opportunity to vote on this issue through a referendum.

Mr. Young expressed concerns about creating more government. He is concerned about a Fort Wayne/Allen County merger but is not an advocate for an additional layer of government.

Mr. Witt requested that Leo-Cedarville notice a public hearing on proposed resolution R41706, A resolution for the reorganization of East Allen communities. Mr. Liechty moved to hold a proper hearing to enable EAC to proceed with the process. Mr. Eastes seconded for the purpose of discussion but further stated that it would be irresponsible to pass the resolution without more financial information. If this resolution were to pass, many of the town's responsibilities would be shifted from the town and given to EAC. He also cautioned those present that the full financial impact of HB1001 remains unknown. Mr. Eastes pointed out that HB1362 does provide a process to circumvent any governmental body's choice not to pass the resolution as drafted. The motion to hold a special hearing on proposed resolution R41706 passed by a majority vote with Mr. Eastes abstaining. The public hearing will be held on April 17th at the town hall.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Ms. Spannuth provided a complete appropriation balance report through March 31, 2008.

CRACK SEALING – Mr. Eastes moved to accept the bid from API Construction for crack sealing with the modifications suggested by the town engineer. Mr. Young seconded; the motion passed unanimously. This year the bid includes a topical application of sand over the fill. The total expenditure for this work is not to exceed the \$25,000.00 appropriation.

SUNNYSIDE/ALTA VISTA DRAINAGE – Mr. Clendenen discussed the final stormwater relief plan designed by the town engineer for the Sunnyside Lane/Alta Vista area in Witmer Park. The stormwater utility board has reviewed and formally approved the proposal as well as the commitment of funds totaling \$40,000.00, \$10,000 toward engineering, and \$30,000.00 towards storm drainage work.

Mr. Lauer briefly discussed the road resurfacing portion of the bid package and recommended changing the scope of work on Lochner Road and Schlatter Road from new chip and seal to 1 1/2" of asphalt. No objections were made regarding this recommendation. Discussion ensued regarding a weight restriction ordinance to help prevent future damage to the roads.

ANNUAL BOARD APPOINTMENTS - Ms. Garton presented the resolutions specifying the appointments to the Plan Commission Board, Board of Zoning Appeals, and the Leo-Cedarville Parks Department Board. Mr. Eastes moved to adopt resolution 2008-02; resolution was seconded by Mr. Liechty and passed unanimously by those present. Mr. Liechty moved to adopt resolution 2008-03; resolution was seconded by Mr. Eastes and passed unanimously by those present. Mr. Young moved to adopt resolution 2008-04; the resolution was seconded by Mr. Liechty and passed unanimously by those present.

PART TIME MAINTENANCE – Ms. Garton announced that she has conducted interviews and hired a seasonal part-time maintenance helper for 20 – 25 hours per week. Discussion ensued pertaining to the needs of the maintenance department and the different options the town has to fulfill seasonal needs. Ms. Kimm, Park’s Department president, addressed this topic since a significant portion of the mowing needs within the town fall under the parks department. She stressed the point that this topic should be examined and evaluated throughout the season and planned for during budget time vs. right before the season begins.

Mr. Young discussed the option of using Severn-Trent for our town’s maintenance services. Discussion ensued relating to the use of an outside agency to run the town’s maintenance department. Mr. Young further introduced the idea of hiring a local mowing contractor to take care of the town’s seasonal mowing needs. Mr. Eastes referenced a document prepared by Ms. Garton, which provides a breakdown of the part-time maintenance department’s hours in 2007. He feels that the town is definitely within budget hiring a part-time maintenance man vs. hiring outside help. No further action was taken.

FUNDING REQUEST FROM NORTHEAST FIRE & EMS – Mr. Eastes moved to approve the request by NEF&EMS for ALS equipment with the expenditure of \$22,468.37 to come from the Fire/EMS appropriation in the General Fund, the balance to come from the Cumulative Fire Fund for a total of \$33,500.00. The expenditure is to be made to Northeast Fire & EMS pursuant to their request to upgrade their equipment from BLS to ALS. Mr. Young seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

RIVERSIDE GARDENS FINANCIAL COMMITMENT – Mr. Clendenen read the letter presented to the council by the Leo-Cedarville parks department requesting a reaffirmation of the commitment of funds to go towards the completion of the Grand Pavilion. Ms. Kimm was present to discuss this letter. Discussion ensued pertaining to several specifics of the project. She presented a site plan showing where the grand pavilion and its access will be. Mr. Eastes inquired as to specifics of the lease agreement that Leo-Cedarville has with the City of Fort Wayne. Mr. Clendenen expressed his continued commitment to this project. Mr. Eastes also expressed that he would support the financial commitment from the previous council to enable the completion of this project.

VOUCHERS – The April 8th line item voucher form was approved unanimously.

APPROVED:

John Clendenen
Council President

ATTEST:

Pamela Spannuth
Clerk-Treasurer